(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1040. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take up the gauge conversion of Siliguri-Alipurduar-Bongaigaon line;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal has also requested the Union Government to take up the conversion work of above line immediately; and

(c) if so, the time by which conversion work is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 1997-98, after the budget is passed and necessary clearance have been obtained.

[Translation]

Amount spent on Jaipur Airport

1041. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent so far on conversion of Jaipur Airport into International Airport;

(b) whether sufficient land has been acquired for this airport;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on the above work; and

(d) the types of aircrafts likely to take off from Jaipur airport and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) A sum of Rs. 12.85 crores has been spent for the upgradation of Jaipur Airport.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Rajasthan has plans to acquire 299 acres of land at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.72 crores for further development of this airport by AAI.

(d) With the completion of upgradation work on hand Airbus-320 type of aircraft can be operated without load restrictions by mid-1997. No definite time frame for operation of larger aircraft from Jaipur airport can be indicated at this stage.

Fax, STD, Telex Facilities in Tourist Cities in Madhya Pradesh

1042. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide facilities such as STD, FAX, TELEX etc. at Khajuraho, Mandu, Orchha, Maheshwar, Onkareshwar, Amarkantak, Chitrakut and Panchanmari the major tourist cities situated in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) S.T.D. facility has already been provided at Khajuraho, Mandu, Maheshwar, Onkareshwer, Chitrakut and Panchamari. This facility is proposed to be provided at Orchha and Amarkantak during 97-98.

Bureaufax facility is presently available at Panchamari. There is a proposal under consideration to provide it at Khajuraho, Mandu, Orchha, Maheshwar, Onkareshwar, Chitrakut and Amarkantak during 1997-98.

Telex facility is available only at Khajuraho.

(c) There is no proposal for provision of TELEX facility at Mandu, Orchha, Maheswar, Onkareshwar, Amarkantak, Chitrakut and Panchamari as there is no demand at these places.

[English]

On-Going Railway Projects in Orissa

1043. SHRI K. PRADHANI :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the on-going railway projects in Orissa and the amount spent thereon so far;

(b) the target date fixed for their completion and the progress of these projects, as on date;

(c) the allocation made for these projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise; and

(d) the funds earmarked for these projects during Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The

details are as under :

	Name of Project	Expenditure incurred till date (Rs. in Crs.)	Target for completion	Progress	Allocation during 8th Plan (Rs. in Crs.)
1.	Talcher-Sambalpur BG rail line	Rs. 223.63	31.3.98	77%	Rs. 201.75
2.	Daitari (Tomka)-Keonjhar -Bansapani new BG line	Rs. 99.89	31.12.99	21%	Rs. 111.98
3.	Kurda Rd.-Bolangir new BG line	Rs. 2.59	Final Location Survey nearing completion and land acquisition being taken up.		Rs. 3.53
4.	Langigarh Road-Junagarh	Rs. 6.00	Load acquisition is in progress		Rs. 10.48
5.	Haridaspur-Paradip	Rs. 0.05	Final Location Survey has been taken up		Rs. 3.00

(d) The fund allocation for the Ninth Plan have not been decided.

Doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore Line

1044. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore line;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The work is going on full stream. The first 04 critical block section would be completed by June'97.

(b) Rs. 2.5 cr. has been spent upto 31.03.96 and Rs. 37.01 cr. has been provided in 1996-97 budget.

(c) The present target for this work is March'99.

International Flights from Hyderabad Airport

1045. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started some new International flights from Hyderabad airport;

(b) if so, the details of the countries to whom these flights have been started;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect Hyderabad through air traffic to some more countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Air India have introduced a once weekly service to Jeddah from Hyderabad from October, 1996. Indian Airlines have introduced a twice weekly service to Sharjah and Muscat and a thrice weekly service to Kuwait from Hyderabad during the year 1996-97.

(c) tc (e) Further augmentation of International flight from Hyderabad would depend upon the growth in traffic which is constantly being monitored by the airlines.

[Translation]

Construction of Airport

1046. SHRI PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of airport in Shrawasthi, the Budhist place of pilgrimage in district Bahraich of Uttar Pradesh has been completed; and

(b) if so, the date from which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has completed the construction work at Shrawasthi airport and the airport is in operation.

[English]

Claims of Compensation

1047. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a cell to render legal assistance to the next of kin of victims of